

ANNUAL REPORT 2013

SCI
SERVICE CIVIL INTERNATIONAL



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Council of Europe – European Youth Foundation



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3. FOREWORD FROM THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

**How many times must the shovel hit the sword
before it is broken in pieces?**

The answer is not blowing in the wind, yet.

2013 has been another year when social justice struggled and social and economic stress challenged peace in many regions of the world. Several conflicts are driving the fate of the world population and they are not always a violent confrontation of forces. Armed conflicts catch our attention when massive killings occur, but people are suffering from war in other regions of Middle



East and Africa and the shadow of military troops marching are now threatening Europe too, after only 20 years since the military actions in the Balkans. Contrasting economic interests are causing workers and people to lose their rights and the hope for a better future. Greed for comfort and energy is driving climate change, a phenomenon that exists not only at an atmospheric level, but also on ground, causing migration, resettlement, and a highly volatile change in people's living conditions. To make matters worse, these conflicts are often further deteriorated by the ire against "those" who are doing these things to "us".

In 2013, SCI has pursued the mission of bringing people together, by supporting concrete projects in local communities we inspired volunteers of all age, gender, and ethnicity to get engaged in global issues, not to get scared by the worrisome scenario, but to work instead for peace and mutual understanding, having confidence that these challenges can be tackled only once we overcome the confrontation scenario, once we walk out the paradigm of economic growth at the expense of our resources, and we walk in the paradigm of a socially and environmentally sustainable system.

2013 presented innovative highlights that confirmed the vitality of SCI. Branches were very busy preparing the worldwide campaign "Create a Climate for Peace" that is now kicking off. The preparation of the campaign involved the identification of projects that show how man driven climate change is hindering peace while representing positive experiences on how we should react to this phenomenon. SCI, also closely followed the escalation of the conflict in Syria, where we explored how international volunteer activities can bring positive contributions to those whose lives have worsened.

SCI keeps being a vibrant organization and branches and volunteers are an outstanding example of active participation in society and many challenges at local level have been successfully undertaken. SCI volunteers were present at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Warsaw and some branches of SCI kept up their extraordinary effort in offering international volunteer activities to marginalized groups to become active players in society in a struggle for dignity against passivity and discouragement.

SCI volunteers have also played and are still playing a driving role in the No Hate Speech movement through a number of events. At the same time, SCI Branches organized tens of international seminars and trainings (in all the corners of Europe and some in Asia) where young activists in particular, in a pure peer-to-peer sharing, could learn from our experiences and contribute to your future.

With more than one thousand projects taking place in 2013, there is doubtless far more to add to SCI achievements and you will need to read this report to get a real sense of it.

SCI represents a stream of wind blowing towards a world with fewer conflicts and more social justice, and we will certainly hear the answer blowing in the wind one day.

Paolo Pagano
SCI International President

4. INTRODUCTION

Service Civil International (SCI) is one of the world's **largest** international volunteering organisations with **more than ninety years** of experience in coordinating international voluntary projects. Through these projects SCI helps break down barriers and prejudices between people of different social, cultural and national backgrounds and promote a culture of peace. SCI's **vision** is a world of peace; social justice and sustainable development, where all people live together with mutual respect and without recourse to any form of violence to solve conflict. SCI's **mission** is to promote a culture of peace by organising international volunteering projects with local and global impact.

SCI was founded by **Pierre Cérésole**, a Swiss engineer who established a peace and humanitarian movement in the aftermath of the 1st World War and laid down the foundations of SCI in 1920. From the modest size in the 1920s, SCI has developed into an international peace movement and international volunteering organisation with 45 **member organisations** in countries all over the world. SCI has established an even greater number of partnerships with like-minded organisations from all continents.

SCI is **open to all**. It was one of the first organisations to divest itself of all political or religious affiliations in its work of promoting peace and intercultural understanding through practical action. Every year, SCI enables thousands of volunteers to participate in its work. Living and working together in an international group gives the volunteers a chance to create a network of international contacts. The voluntary work is designed to introduce volunteers to the range of problems that communities face in the struggle for peace and social justice. The work aspect, as much as the social contact with local people, is a unique way of acquiring a deeper understanding of problems that people are facing in one's own country and abroad.



Workcamp, Senegal (2009)

5. STRUCTURES OF SCI

The highest decision making body in SCI is the **International Committee Meeting (ICM)**, which meets once a year. All the branches of SCI are members of the organisation and they all have voting rights in the ICM. SCI branches can send one delegate and one or more observers.

The **International Executive Committee (IEC)** and the **International Secretariat (IS)** are responsible for preparing the ICM. In December 2013, this important meeting was held in Greece and hosted by SCI Hellas.

The members of the International Executive Committee, including the president, vice-president and treasurer, are elected at the ICM. The IEC is responsible for implementing the decisions made at each ICM and it has a mandate to make in-between policy and management decisions.

In 2013 the IEC consisted of the following persons:

Paolo Pagano	International President
Kata Somlai	Appointed Vice President
Katja Löfgren	Appointed International Treasurer
Matteo Testino	Member
Živa Černec	Member
Mihaela Dobroiu	Member

At the ICM 2013 in Greece, Matteo Testino was elected International Vice President. Attanayake Karunaratne was elected as an official IEC member. Živa Černec and Mihaela Dobroiu ended their terms as IEC members.

Organisations that want to become a member of SCI can apply for **SCI Group status**. SCI Groups may apply for **SCI Branch** status if they have been active for at least 2 years, have evidence of administrative stability, are officially registered with the authorities in their own country and undertake moral and financial obligations in support of the movement. The ICM grants branch status upon recommendation of the IEC. In 2013, one organisation was accepted as new SCI branch: IVP Australia. SCI Northern Ireland had their status as an SCI Branch withdrawn after years of inactivity.

In countries where SCI has no branches it cooperates with **partner organisations**. Partners are like-minded organisations that are selected according to a fixed procedure and furthermore evaluated on their annual activities. Most of the partners are based in Eastern Europe, Central Asia, the Middle East, Latin America and Africa. In 2013 the ICM voted for Gotas de Agua Peru as new partner organisation of SCI, while Ajude Mozambique was removed from being an SCI partner.

Apart from groups, branches and partners, several international **working groups** are active within SCI. When a group starts its activities it can apply for working group status in SCI.

Once received the official working group status, it needs to present an activity report, financial results, budget for the coming year, and an action plan at each ICM. The ICM votes whether the working group status can be maintained.

The following international working groups were recognised and active in 2013:

- LTEG (Long-Term Exchanges Group)
- SAVA WG (Balkans)
- YUWG
- Africa WG
- Asia International WG
- Midi WG (Mediterranean region)
- GAIA – sustainable development and climate change

All branches can choose which international working groups they want to support and join. A branch that joins an international working group as a member carries a financial responsibility for a possible deficit of that working group.

Besides the officially recognised working groups other **informal structures** were active in 2013:

- No More War Initiative

Other bodies in the SCI international structures are the **Financial Advisory & Consultancy Team (FACT)** and the **International Insurance Commission (IIC)**. Both meet once a year and advise the international treasurer and/ or the IEC, the ICM, separate branches and international working groups on respectively finances and insurance matters.



IEC members and branch delegates during the ICM 2013, Kalavrita, Greece (2013)

6. INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTARY PROJECTS IN 2013

I. SHORT TERM PROJECTS

SCI organises short term international voluntary projects, commonly known within SCI as 'workcamps'. These projects are organised in cooperation with SCI's network of branches and partner organisations which in turn cooperate with local organisations and communities. A short term international voluntary project is a unique form of volunteering, bringing together people from different countries, cultures and backgrounds to live and work together with local communities for a period of 2 -4 weeks. The projects aim to break down barriers between people and to develop international understanding, cooperation and solidarity. There is always a study element to the projects and a strong emphasis on intercultural learning. (Volunteers at a workcamp in Croatia 2013)

Every year thousands of short term voluntary projects are organised in different fields and with different types of voluntary work. There is always something that will interest you!

For example, did it ever occur to you that you could go abroad to...

...participate in art projects aiming at awareness raising of human rights with Roma communities in Kosovo?

...organise games and other activities for asylum seeker children in Belgium?

...work in a permaculture project in the Swiss mountains?

...support activities aiming at women's empowerment in Kenya?

...renovate a Buddhist temple in Sri Lanka?

...support the daily work in a Wildlife park in Mexico?

Find out more on www.sciint.org for search for a workcamp on www.workcamps.info



Volunteers at a workcamp in Croatia (2013)

SCI Catalunya workcamp in partnership with the Catalan Foundation for Cerebral Palsy - by Miu

The term “cerebral palsy” is so broad that in itself it hardly says anything at all. And so, in the space created by these two words, so unfortunately linked together as to suggest a vision far worse than the reality, we find a group of people so different that the only thing they have in common is that at one point they suffered a cerebral lesion, either before birth or shortly after. In everything else, they are as different as any group of strangers you’d find on the street.

Having been lucky enough to share a few days with this invisible sector of the population, the most notable difference was probably the change of pace: the schedule becomes more relaxed, it doesn’t matter if it takes an hour or two to eat, or if the conversation is longer than planned (This made me reflect on my own capacity to listen - four or five of their words made so much more sense than 5 minutes of my small talk), or if you improvise a little... We have come to this life to live it and we must dedicate ourselves to living it, to enjoying the things that give meaning to everyday processes.

On the other side of this vitality, of this energy and desire to be that exist in this environment appears, as though it was the other side of the same coin, a social rejection which is a fear of the unknown, a mental barrier we have constructed to protect ourselves from what we believe we should be protected from. And we make very strange choices, we have an “us and them” mentality, giving uncomfortable sideways glances when we pass them on the street, thinking that “acting normal is what they want”.

And this is the key to the problem, that we, like the coin, insist on having 2 faces...



SCI Catalunya Workcamp with Catalan Foundation for Cerebral Palsy Barcelona (2013)

Thaurer Alm – A great Experience - by Pablo GM

This summer I participated in the project "Save the Cultural Landscape at Thaurer Alm," which took place in a mountain village of Thaur in the Austrian Länder of Tyrol, near Innsbruck, between 28th July and 10th August.

There were 15 volunteers from 11 different countries; the Czech Republic, Taiwan, Bangladesh, Poland, Germany, England, Finland.. We also had two coordinators from SCI Austria, Thomas and Lena, which made communication with the locals very easy.

The field work was co-organized by SCI Austria and the Karwendel Alpenpark. We cut the trees that were on the edges of one of the natural park trails to avoid the vegetation from invading the area which climbers often use. All volunteers and camp leaders stayed in a shelter that was in Thaurer Alm, where we had mattresses, showers and a small bathroom, where there was always a queue. Breakfasts were buffet and took place in a restaurant that was next to the refuge, dinners too. For lunch, we brought bread and cold cuts and did a lunch break.

A day of field work was scheduled to make a hiking tour through the mountains near Innsbruck. This day, Hermann and the Mayor of Thaur were with us. On Sunday we went to visit an area of waterfalls and then we visited the family of one of the locals.

It was a nice experience in the Alps of Austria and an encounter with international volunteering, to be repeated in the future.



Volunteers cleaning the forest of small branches, Thaurer Alm, Austria (2013)



Volunteers at a workcamps in Switzerland and Malaysia (2013)

Online Placement System (www.workcamps.info)

During 2013 a team of international volunteers continued to work on the development of the SCI international database of workcamps. This system, hosted on www.workcamps.info has the nickname OPS in SCI (standing for Online Placement System) and has acquired a strategic place in SCI over the last years.

To date, the SCI system integrates all the communications needed to perform a reliable and serious placement in the interest of volunteers travelling worldwide to for their service and also includes a feature to collect statistics, needed to assess the role and the impact of volunteers.

OPS Team Members 2013

Cliff Ford
Minerva Jormola
Paolo Pagano
Slavyana Krushovenska
Uris Kalatchoff

Tech Team

The tech team is a group of volunteers that was established in 2011 with the idea to improve the IT infrastructure of SCI at international level and give support to branches. In the year of 2013, the Tech Team became really active in the implementation of different projects, such as making changes in the IT-Infrastructure of the International Secretariat of SCI, creating a New Member's Area <http://www.ma.sciint.org> , updating the SCI Survey System and creating a Pool of Trainers Online Database <http://www.pooloftrainers.sciint.org>.

Work started on a Standard web-site template/layout for SCI branches, which was requested by several branches. It currently under development and is going to be finished in the beginning of 2014 with the support from the movement (participation in creating the list of requirements, providing feedback).

The seminar: Internet Age of Volunteering was jointly organized by SVIT-Ukraine and the Tech Team in September 2013 in Crimea, Ukraine. This was one of a series of seminars that are aimed at activists and staff members to improve their knowledge of IT tools to simplify their work as well as reaching more volunteers for their activities.

Tech Team members 2013

Hilko Kolbeek
Uris Kalatchoff
Mariia (Masha) Ginzburg

New Deal Team

New Deal for workcamps team was established in January 2013 following the Resolution for ICM 2012. The team communicated through their own mailing list newdealcoord@scimail.org and held monthly Skype meetings. For the needs of the New Deal initiative an EVS project has been implemented by SCI Switzerland who is hosting Ivana for the duration of one year. The main aim of the first year was to **collect data** in cooperation with branches in order to better understand the roots of the problems that branches are facing and to **collect practical ideas for initiatives** that would help to increase the number of workcamps.

The ND team communicated to branches and activists through emails and in person at the meetings (BCM, KMS, EEM). The feedback from branches helped to develop ideas for further actions which will be useful when outlining the team's plan of action for 2014.

New Deal Team Members 2013

Maurus Achermann
Minerva Jormola
Uris Kalatchoff
Ivana Kovačić
Živa Černec
Marek Rembowski
Ela Suleymangil

Pool of Trainers

The SCI Pool of Trainers and Facilitators is a group of 11 experienced trainers chosen by a SCI Selection Committee in May 2013. The webpage (and database) of the Pool of Trainers and Facilitators of SCI can be accessed here <http://pooloftrainers.sciint.org/>

Mauro of the Pool of Trainers, together with Sara from the International Secretariat, coordinated a session during the 2013 ICM of SCI, aimed at facilitating a debate on different approaches that branches have on addressing the issues on their agenda. The discussion produced some valuable results in terms of sharing information among the network and identifying priorities and working styles.

Pool of Trainers 2013:

Alice Cavagliá
Grace Walsh
Ingrid Danckaerts
Linda Boyes
Matteo Testino
Mauro Carta
Małgorzata Tur
Natalie Jivkova
Valerie Weidinger
Julia Myasyshcheva
Wojtek Szczepanik

II. LONG TERM PROJECTS

SCI's Long Term Volunteering (LTV) programme provides volunteers with the opportunity to stay abroad from 2 to 12 months and support a variety of projects and activities, such as working with disabled people, disadvantaged youth or ethnic minorities, to working in an office or run daily activities in an eco-village. Long Term Volunteering is more than just work. The long lasting commitment that LTV's make to the projects enables sustained work for peace, both on a concrete level for the branches and partner organisations and on a personal level for the volunteer and the members of the local communities. It is the experience of living abroad and learning from different cultures and people, while getting deeply involved with a concrete project that is for the benefit of the local community.

All LTV's that work in SCI are provided with food and accommodation, some pocket money and a basic SCI health insurance. Travel costs to the project are generally covered by the volunteer him/herself. In 2010 various LTV projects in SCI were financed by the European Commission through the **European Voluntary Service (EVS)**, which is part of the Youth in Action programme and aims to support young people's participation in various forms of voluntary activities, both within and outside the European Union. Under this Action, young people take part individually or in groups in non-profit, unpaid activities.

LONG TERM EXCHANGE GROUP (LTEG)

LTEG is an international SCI working group that contributes to SCI's mission by promoting, strengthening and improving the Long Term Volunteer (LTV) activities in SCI, involving more branches and partners in LTV exchange and seeking recognition of the importance of LTV exchange for the organisations, communities and volunteers involved in it.

All activities implemented by LTEG in 2013 aimed at strengthening and improving the LTV exchange within SCI. Some of the highlights of LTEG's activities in 2013:

- **Placement Officer Training** (Catalunya, Spring 2013): This was a training for placement officers, focusing on teambuilding and networking, practical procedures for volunteer placements and the usage of the Online Placement System. The training was made possible with financial support of the Youth in Action Programme of the European Commission.
- **Training 'Mentoring Volunteer Exchanges (MOVE)'** (Serbia, 5 – 9 November 2013): This was a training for LTV project coordinators, with a special focus on discussing available tools to support long term volunteer exchanges, intercultural communication and further needs of coordinators. The training was made possible with financial support of the Youth in Action Programme of the European Commission.

➤ **Database for long term projects** (www.longterm.lteg.info)

The database for long term volunteering vacancies has been maintained by LTEG and some enhancements according to LTEG's plan of action 2012/2013 were performed.

LTEG Steering Group 2013

Magdalena M. Kaj

Maria Kankkunen

Sarah Gerster

Marta Sykut



Mentoring Volunteer Exchanges (MOVE) Training, Serbia (2013)

“The key issues of the training course were the role, functions and responsibilities of a mentor and LTV practical procedures. The aim of the training was also to create a mentor hand book and to propose some improvements for practical procedures.

I think the participants gained some food for thought. To me, personally, I gained new motivation and comprehension of the whole LTV process.

So, I can say that this training was definitely 100% useful for me. In addition, I met many nice people and had a good time.” - *Maria , LTV coordinator at AYA Volunteer Centre*

7. WHERE DID SCI WORK IN 2013?

I. EUROPE

In 2013 SCI organised both short and long term volunteering projects all over Europe, as well as trainings, seminars and several international meetings. Projects were organised and implemented by 30 European member - and 30 partner organisations. The International Secretariat of SCI, located in Antwerp, Belgium, facilitated and co-ordinated several activities and projects. Branches were active at local, national and international levels and several working groups such as LTEG and GAIA (both described elsewhere in this report) and SAVA: the working group called after the river that flows through the Balkan, were organizing voluntary activities in 2013.

SCI ITALY: OPEN DOORS

With the current situation on the freedom of movement into and within Europe and the tragedies that have taken place in the past year it is essential to mention the project “OPEN DOORS, Social Inclusion and the Construction of European Identity”. This project was carried out by four branches of Service Civil International (SCI) – SCI Greece, SCI Catalunya, Utilapu Hungary, SCI Italy – and Cyprus Youth Council (CYC) and funded by the European Commission through the Action 2 - Active Civil Society in Europe of the Europe for Citizens programme.

The main objectives were: (1) to provide EU citizens, policy makers and public opinion with an insight of the social inclusion of forced migrants in Italy, Greece, Spain, Hungary and Cyprus; (2) to raise awareness on needs for improving social inclusion of forced migrants in Europe.

The development of awareness-raising materials that has been presented and spread during the public events consists of two main parts: an analysis of the policies on forced migrants in the participating countries and the exploration of the main dimensions of social exclusion and the relationship between them. The second part attempts to investigate the possible means of overcoming exclusion. This two-sided analysis of the issue allows us to have an insight about the effects of policies on social inclusion.

The public events that were held as part of this project to raise awareness and disseminate information have been collected and presented in a video format.

Open Doors - by Mireia Termes

In order to coordinate projects between all participating countries we organized different meetings which not only allowed us to organize our own work, but also to understand the situation of refugees in other countries. In Budapest we participated in a work-camp with young refugees, restoring the centre they lived in and sharing leisure activities with them. In Cyprus we visited a reception centre for refugees waiting for the response to their asylum application. In Greece we also visited a refugee centre which is experiencing serious economic difficulties and is risking closure – lots of the refugees went on hunger strike as a protest. We collected food from supermarkets to distribute at the centre and informed the community about the situation of the refugee centre.

After a year of work but also personal learning we find ourselves in the final phases of the project. This November the final project was presented in Rome, including all participants, as well as a video developed by the project's communication team. From then on we have been working on the diffusion of this research and continue to be involved in this sector.

VSI IRELAND

Between the 9th till 16th of September the international training seminar "Youth Take the Lead" took place in Dublin, Ireland. It was organized by Voluntary Service International Ireland within Youth in Action Programme.

The Training Course was focused on giving the participants the knowledge and tools in order to develop a good quality international Youth Exchange within the Youth in Action programme. There was also a special focus on enhancing facilitation skills and working with non-formal education methodologies. As 2013 is the European Year of Citizenship all the participants were encouraged to reflect actively on the idea of European Identity and Citizenship and this topic was explored in the context of international youth work. Special attention was paid to the intercultural learning and so there was the opportunity to discover one another's cultures. As a result of the project a Good Practice Guide was produced, it is aimed at organisations, who want to develop Youth Exchanges with EECA partners.

"The most wonderful thing in my opinion was that I met people from many different countries, so I had an opportunity to enjoy different traditions and languages. I was amazed by the variety of participants: there were people from Abkhazia, Georgia, Moldova, Slovenia, Bulgaria, Estonia and of course Ireland." - Alex Dyomin



Participants at the “Youth Take the Lead” training, Ireland (2013)

SAVA WORKING GROUP

SAVA is an international SCI working group that coordinates volunteering activities in South-Eastern Europe, mainly in the Balkan region. It was formed in 1992 during the wars and conflicts that took place in this area. SAVA’s mission is to promote peace values, intercultural understanding, acceptance and environmental awareness, through promoting volunteering and empowerment of individuals and communities of the Balkans.

In 2012 SAVA was active with the organisation of three SAVA workcamps. A SAVA workcamp is a workcamp in the Balkan region with at least 70% of participants from the same region, and with a special study part dedicated to peace education and Balkan languages, as well as English when needed. Apart from these camps there was the organization of the fifth ‘Living Together’ project in Kosovo.

SAVA Steering Group 2013

Milica Milovic
Ernest Kovač
Katerina Stoyanova
Stefan Manevski
Lukas Kreinbuehl

Shopska Study Visit: Break Stereotypes and Enjoy Balkans!

– by Mariia (Masha) Ginzburg

At the end of April I was lucky enough to travel across four Balkan countries (Bulgaria, Serbia, Macedonia and Kosovo) in less than one week! For the “Shopska Study Visit” organized by SCI’s SAVA international working group, which has been working for a long time on social dialogue and peace building issues in the Balkans.

Just imagine charming Balkan landscapes, traditional food and twenty motivated young people from all over Europe, who came to meet locals, to know more about volunteer projects in local NGOs, to find out about the problems that young people are facing in the region and... to break stereotypes!

Do you still have some? Then I suggest you join a workcamp, exchange or even go as an EVS there, as this is the best way to know the place from the “inside” and meet amazingly nice people, while at the same time to support local youth in achieving common goals on raising awareness, fighting with stereotypes and prejudices and building successful intercultural dialogue.

And don’t worry, Kosovo is safe place to visit, if you don’t believe me, go there and break your stereotypes!



Participants of the Shopska Study Visit (2013)

NORTH SOUTH INCOMING PROGRAMME IN EUROPE

The SCI Incoming Programme is a North South solidarity exchange that takes place every year in Europe. Volunteers from SCI partner organisations in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East are invited to participate on an exchange programme which lasts eight to ten weeks throughout August, September, and October. The volunteers join a four-week programme in different hosting countries in Europe, which consists of a seminar with an introduction to SCI and the invited countries, participation on a workcamp organised by a branch of SCI, and an evaluation of the project. The programme also includes participation at the SCI North South Platform Meeting in October.

The objectives of the programme are to deepen mutual knowledge for a better collaboration, exchange information to improve the quality of preparation trainings for SCI volunteers, to learn about the daily work of SCI branches and partner organisations, offer opportunities for South partner organisations to encounter and collaborate, facilitate contacts and collaborations with other European organisations; exchange with European volunteers (for example in workcamps) and learn about European reality.

In 2013, SCI Germany invited ten international volunteers from partner organisations in the Global South to live and learn together with ten volunteers from Germany. For four weeks, the young people from different countries, cultures and backgrounds stayed together, learned about the topic and prepared workshops that they performed with local pupils at schools in Cologne and Bonn.

In 2013 the following volunteers participated in the Incoming Programme: Adegbenga Oluseum from Nigeria, Ali Al-Adawy and Sameh Al-Hlawany from Egypt, Hang Vu Thi from Vietnam, Hari Krishna Prajapati from Nepal, Indika Jayaweera from Sri Lanka, Itsnani Mardlotillah from Indonesia, Juan Acevedo Castro from Ecuador, Kagiso Moatshe from Botswana and Sofía Flores Ontiveros from Mexico. The theme for 2013 was “Crisis everywhere? How do we shape the world of tomorrow?”

‘For the pupils, it was great to make them realise that the lives they live affect other countries and people they have never reached. In the group, we had a great team spirit and experienced how great cooperation in a group of people can work. Thank for this opportunity to learn and teach!’ - *Kagiso Moatshe*



Participants at a weekend Workcamp at 'Hortus Dialogus' in Nideggen-Abenden, Germany (2013)

II. ASIA-PACIFIC REGION

In 2013, the Asia-Pacific region saw many activities organised under the Asia International Working Group (AIWG), the Asian Development Committee (ADC), the Asian Development Programme (ADP), and the Asian Platform Meeting (APM). Here you can read about some of the activities that took place in the Asian region with SCI.

ASIA INTERNATIONAL WORKING GROUP (AIWG)

Established in 2006, the Asia International Working Group (AIWG) is the SCI platform for activists and branches working in and for the Asian region. Its aims are to achieve a better cooperation and development of exchanges between Asia and the rest of the world through common projects and exchange and to reinforce the links between Asian branches and branches in the rest of the world; to deal with issues surrounding new Asian groups, partners, and contact organisations; and to facilitate the evaluation process of North South exchanges.

In 2013 AIWG organised the Asia Europe Exchange Program (AEEP) 2013 and was active in facilitating communication between branches and partners involved with voluntary exchanges in and to Asia. The AIWG participated at the North South Platform Meeting 2013 where it also held its annual meeting.

AIWG Steering Group 2013

Sooriya Bandara
Johannes Kiefl
Prasant Shestra

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (ADC)

SCI has its own platform for the Asian region, the Asian Development Committee. It exists of representatives of all Asian branches and groups, and has at aim to develop the organizations and their (common) programs.

The ADC also has its own magazine: [Asian Voices](#), which it published in September 2013.



Volunteers taking part in a two-week workcamp in Semarang, Indonesia (2013)



Participants at the Asia Pacific Peace Education Seminar and Asian Platform Meeting held at SCI Sri Lanka (2013)

III. NORTH AND SOUTH AMERICA

In 2013 SCI organised exchange activities in USA and Canada through the SCI branch SCI-IVS USA and with the partner organisations Nocono Canada and Volunteers for Peace USA. In Latin America SCI worked in close cooperation with the SCI branches and partners in Mexico, Brazil, Peru, Chile and Ecuador. During 2013, Abya Yala was an unofficial working group and was not very active, however, at the 2013 ICM they were once more recognised as a Working Group.

IV. MIDDLE EAST AND MEDITERRANEAN REGION

MIDI WORKING GROUP

An official international working group of SCI, the Mediterranean Working Group (MIDI) is responsible for ensuring a smooth exchange of volunteers between the Mediterranean region and the rest of the SCI movement, in an effort to propose a just peace as an alternative to violence and oppression. It seeks to communicate and strengthen the broader SCI movement's solidarity with its partners and their communities in times of need. Currently, MIDI is responsible for exchanges with Turkey, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Palestine, Israel, Egypt, Algeria and Morocco. It remains open to take the responsibility for countries geographically and culturally linked to those mentioned when the need or opportunity arises. Midi also gathers the evaluations from international voluntary projects and exchanges and evaluates the partner organisations. Midi aims at promoting a common strategy and at coordinating the exchange of information about this region. The working group shares ideas about projects and prepares common tools for pre-departure trainings.

In 2013 Midi working group organised the following activities:

- SCI Italy continued their work in Palestine with the Popular Struggle Coordination Committee (PSCC) in a bilateral workcamp and an EVS project.
- SCI Catalonia co-hosted a seminar with different partners from the Mediterranean region and hosted a volunteer from Tunisia during 3 months.
- VIA NL had an LTV in Egypt and also did a lot of work for the incoming programme together with SCI Germany and SCI Belgium.
- SCI Belgium carried out 2 bilateral workcamps in Morocco in order to strengthen the link with possible new partners.

Besides the above described activities, Midi working group, as in the previous years, provided assistance to branches and volunteers regarding all issues related to exchange with the Midi region.

SCI PATHFINDER MISSION

SCI, on the base of the recommendation approved by the ICM In 2012 about solidarity with Syrian people, decided to take a stand against the violence in the region and to start some actions based on the values of peace and dialogue.

One of the first steps was to constitute a working group which deals with all the activities related to the conflict in the area (seminars, fund raising, pilot projects and awareness raising activities), followed by a group of pathfinders responsible for implementing assessment missions and elaborating project proposals.

In 2013 a group of 5 pathfinders journeyed to Jordan on an assessment mission. The main objectives of the Pathfinders were to have an overview of acting local and international NGO's in the field as well as UN-bodies, as well as an overview of the activities carried out by bodies, mentioned above, with emphasis on social activities. To identify the needs of the Syrian refugees (and also the local population), to contact and liaise with local and international NGO's, to establish a working-space for future activities, to recruit local activists for future activities/organization, to analyse the feasibility of the establishment of international volunteering projects in the region, to create a report for SCI and the outside world and to empower Bridges of Peace (the SCI group in Jordan).

'It is really interesting to talk to organizations, directly involved in the field. It gives us, the pathfinders, new insights of the situation here. As we have the opportunity to ask direct questions, we learn much more. – A pathfinder



The team of Pathfinders in Jordan (2013)

3 EVS volunteers in Palestine – by volunteers from SCI Italy and SCI Catalunya

We are three long term volunteers from SCI Italy and SCI Catalunya in Palestine for a cooperation project in partnership with the Popular Struggle Coordination Committee (PSCC). The organization was born in 2006, to implement the non-violent popular struggle in Palestine, starting from the Bil'in struggle and extended in several villages such as Ni'lin, Kafr Qaddum, Al Ma'sara and Nabi Saleh.

We live in Al Ma'sara and our work includes supporting the activities of the cultural center of the village, focusing on youth and the development of the women's handcraft cooperative. The life of the village is very strong; it allows us to learn about the local culture and the impact of the Israeli occupation. As part of supporting the non-violent struggle, we participate at the Friday demonstration and in the activities organized by the popular committees along with Palestinians, Israelis and international activists.

Outside of Al Ma'sara village we are engaged in monitoring South Bethlehem and the area of South Hebron Hills, the evolution of the building of settlements and Israeli settlers and soldiers' violations. We also write reports about the confiscation of Palestinian land, demolition of homes or property and settler violence. In particular, we are following the expansion of the Efrat settlement, the problems faced by farmers in the settlement of Gush Etzion and the growing tension between settlers and Palestinians in the village of Tekoa. In the area of south Hebron Hills, the so-called Firing Zone, we are following the problems of children and peasants of At- Tuwani, Susya and Yatta. Another matter in which we are currently taking part is the protest against the Prawer Plan, the Israeli strategy to destroy 45 villages in the Negev, forcibly transferring about 40,000 Bedouin to "townships", cities built ad hoc such as Segev Shalom. The goals of this plan are to build military bases and cities for Jews only.

Our experience in Palestine is emotionally demanding because you have to face the daily life of the occupation and, at the same time, it makes you aware of the place, of the context, of the conflict and, for sure, of ourselves.

V. SUB-SAHARA AFRICA

AFRICA WORKING GROUP

The Africa working group aims at promoting dialogue, cooperation and solidarity between SCI and sub-Saharan Partner organisations of SCI. It wants to develop, build and continue on SCI's current and previous work in the region by maintaining relations and developing cooperation between African partners and SCI, conducting annual evaluation of SCI's work in and related to the region, sharing resources and knowledge with partners, and by maintaining standards of preparation and evaluation of international voluntary projects/exchanges and through good and open communication.

In 2013 the Africa Working Group was active in the following fields:

- Steering group member, Emmi Ruohonen, represented AWG and SCI in the Africa-Europe Training Course organized in Cape Verde. The meeting was organized by the North-South Center of the Council of Europe. In due to this training there was an application submitted by SCI and including several Sub-Saharan partners of SCI as well as new organisations for an Africa-Europe Voluntary Service project financed under the Youth in Action program. The aim of this would be to work in order to create a pilot version of Africa-Europe Voluntary Service in the year 2014. Unfortunately, this has since been rejected.
- In general also in the last year the sending organisations have encountered a decreasing number of volunteers sent to workcamps in Sub-Saharan Africa, which concerns the AWG, as most of the hosting organisations depend to a large extent on incoming volunteers.

Africa working group - Steering Group 2013

Emmi Ruohonen

Ben Moon

Pascal Duterme

Alexandra Strebel

Marjorie Kupper

8. THEMATIC FOCUS IN 2013

I. PEACE EDUCATION

During 2013 it was the Peace Messengers network and the No More War Team as the main actors in SCI on the topic of Peace and Peace Education, through the organisation of trainings, workshops, seminars, street action and workcamps.

The **Peace Messengers** are a network composed of SCI volunteers who organise peace education workshops - mainly during short term international voluntary projects - to raise awareness about SCI's values of peace. The Peace Messengers place emphasis on linking the values of peace to the international voluntary project experience.

One such activity was the Peace Messengers Online Course that took place between 13th March and the 10th April 2013.

The **No More War Team** is an informal SCI working group. In 2010, the year of SCI's 90th anniversary the group was established and initiated a worldwide campaign to highlight SCI's values of anti-militarism and non-violence. Core-activities are the No More War-workcamps, but the team also organises trainings and seminars.

One such activity was the training: "Occupy Peace Online" that took place between 27 January and 3 February 2013, at the European Youth Centre in Strasbourg. This training focused on online campaigning while also introducing the participants to the [No Hate Speech Movement](#) which is a part of the project 'Young People Combating Hate Speech Online' that is running between 2012 and 2014. The project stands for equality, dignity, human rights and diversity. The campaign is based upon human rights education, youth participation and media literacy. It aims at reducing hate speech and at combating racism and discrimination in their online expression. SCI continued to support and actively participate in the movement during 2013, with SCI activists attending the Online Activists Training and No Hate Speech Movement Conference that was held at the European Youth Centre in Strasbourg, October 2013.

The No More War in cooperation with the European Youth Foundation will continue its activities in this area in 2014, with the Study Session: "reACTING to extreme right hate speech online", 2-9 February 2014, at the European Youth Centre in Budapest, Hungary.

Occupy Peace Online— *by a Belgian Participant*

Almost 40 participants arrived one after one in the European Youth Centre in Strasbourg a couple of weeks ago. And they came from everywhere! Our goal for the week? To learn and leave with more luggage than what we arrived with!

The study session 'Occupy Peace Online' was organised by SCI and the No More War team, while supported by the Council of Europe. It was all about on-line campaigning and it was tailor-made for active volunteers within the SCI network.

Workshops, group discussions, brainstorming sessions... most of us were not familiar with these kinds of methods during our years of formal education. But by flavouring everything with a touch of 'group participation' – we immediately felt collective understanding was being achieved. Along the way things became clearer and we learnt how a campaign should be structured and carried out. Last but not least, we got some interesting background information on the European campaign against hate speech.

For me personally, this was the first time I crossed the border to join an SCI training. All in all it has been a very enriching and intense experience. Therefore, I believe I should express a sincere 'thank you' to everyone who made this training possible, including the European Youth Centre where we were hosted for a whole week.



Participants at the EYC Study Session, Occupy Peace Online, Strasbourg, France (2013)

Training of Young Trainers in Peace Education– by Clara Giberga

Sometimes, when you read newspapers or watch the news and see what is happening around you, you just want to give up, throw in the towel, pack it in and go home. It is so complicated to build another world – a more just, less violent world – that it seems almost impossible. Impossible... unless you unite a group of young people from all over the world, with completely different ways of acting and thinking, but with one very important thing in common – the desire to chase this almost impossible dream.

7 days of nearly 24 hour activity, 32 incredible people brimming with potential, one unique space...

From the 2nd to the 8th of September the young and the young at heart gathered at Mas Franch – a project dedicated to ecology and social transformation – for a training week run by SCI International's peace education group No More War.

The week started with a reflection on what Peace Education meant for us, leading gradually to selecting a peace related theme of personal interest which participants would develop in working groups throughout the week as the topic of a workshop and a training session.

We were so lucky to share the week with a group of perfect participants! Energetic, concerned, curious, participative, critical... and, what is more, they formed such a strong, integrated group that by the middle of the week it seemed more like we were in a family home than a hostel.

We hope that the seeds we planted during the week will begin to grow very soon and that, in the future, we will be able to see the fruit of our work in the form of transformed people who in turn transform their environment and, little by little, bring us closer to achieving the almost impossible dream of a more just, more peaceful world.

II. SOCIAL INCLUSION

YUWG

YUWG is a platform for activists working with and for the social inclusion of young people with fewer opportunities. The group was established in 1985. The purpose of YUWG activities is to support young people in overcoming obstacles that may prevent them from being an international volunteer. These young people include: young offenders; young asylum seekers separated from their families; young people in state care; young people with a history of homelessness, drug or alcohol abuse; young people who experience economic, geographical or physical exclusion.

In 2013 Member branches and organisations hosted a number of YUWG Youth Exchanges. Short Term EVS placements took place between members of YUWG and other SCI branches and partners on a bilateral basis. De Amicitia, VSI, SCI Region Nord and VIA Belgium were all active in this area. Local activities ran at most branches, these included weekend volunteering trips, short workcamps, local initiatives, youth projects, peer education projects and preparation/ evaluation events.

YUWG Highlights

Every year YUWG organizes its "Leaders Training" in May. This time it took place in the village of Lozen in Bulgaria. The training course "Lead a Step to Inclusion" was designed for volunteers intending to be youth leaders on European youth exchanges, working with young people with fewer opportunities.

About 30 future leaders, interested in working on social inclusion projects, took part in the training. They came from 11 different branches of SCI from all over the Europe: CVS-Bulgaria, IVS Great Britain, SCI Italy, SCI Catalunya, SCI Region Nord France, Zavod Voluntariat Slovenia, VSI Ireland, SCI Hellas (Greece), Utilapu Hungary, CID Macedonia and VCV Serbia. The Training was hosted by Step by Step Foundation (which is a partner organization of CVS – Bulgaria) and was financed by the European Union's Youth in Action Programme.

The content of the training was focused on risk awareness (child protection) and child-based approaches in youth exchanges, but also covered various topics such as: Decision Making, Group Dynamics, Leadership skills, Non-violent Communication, Conflict Resolution, Non-formal and Informal education and Lifelong Learning, Project Management Cycle, Key Competences and the Youthpass Certificate.

During the summer of 2013, YUWG organized youth exchanges in different European countries, where the newly trained leaders had the opportunity to implement and share the knowledge they gained during the training.



YUWG - Steering Group 2013

Vera Nikolova
Amanda McGreevan
Boglarka Meggyesfalvi

III. INTERCULTURAL UNDERSTANDING AND DIALOGUE

Through international voluntary exchanges with people of different social, economic, national and cultural backgrounds SCI creates an intercultural setting in all its projects, meetings, trainings and seminars. At the same time there are activities that have intercultural dialogue and exchange as its main theme and method.

One such project that took place in 2013 was “Heart, Hand, Spoon – Roma Cook Book” workcamp, that took place in Plementina, Kosovo, where participants volunteered with the local community, being invited into the homes local of the local Roma population.

Cooking Together in Kosovo— *by Silvia Gabriel, Karin Weibel & Gabor Gervai*

On our way home, we often found ourselves being invited into the home of a welcoming family, willing to share a coffee or even their “Pita” with us. Struggling with the language barrier was rather fun than an extra effort. Even though we were foreigners and strangers to them, there were no disturbing distances, no uncomfortable situations during those few hours spent together in their kitchens. This entire informal, relaxed atmosphere allowed us to have a close view into the everyday lives of the families, and even if we could just taste a small part of it, we felt that we had a glance at the true core of Plemetina spirit, spiced with stories of the people we met here. And though our main task was to collect traditional Roma recipes, representing Roma culture, we found that most of the dishes we cooked are quite common all over Albanian and Serbian households as well.

Cooking is a way of intercultural communication in its truest sense, something that connects people from all around the world through their different, but yet so often similar cultures, as it turned out to be in Plemetina. The kitchen is a place of coexisting, cooperating, sharing and getting together... a place of communication through words, food and smiles.

We hope that the recipes will contribute to peaceful and inspiring lunches and dinners just like the ones we were happy to enjoy in Plemetina!



Volunteers in Plementina, Kosovo (2013)

V. SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

For SCI it is becoming more and more important to respond to the problematic of Climate Change in all its projects and activities. Volunteers are encouraged to travel to workcamps by bus, train or boat whenever possible, and special eco-camps are being implemented, where volunteers work on biological farms or in ecological gardens for example while increasing their awareness on environmental topics and sustainable lifestyles.

GAIA

Gaia was officially recognised as an official SCI working group at the International Committee Meeting (ICM) 2010. The aim of the group is to improve SCI's consciousness and response to the challenges of sustainable living and climate change. As sustainable living is a key aspect of GAIA's vision, the group intends to raise awareness and build capacity on this issue among volunteers, partners, and outside our movement. GAIA believes that sustainable living and climate change are more than "environmental issues" as they are also issues of peace and social justice. GAIA has the opportunity and the responsibility to contribute to these issues with activities such as short and long term voluntary projects, and non-formal education.

In 2013 Gaia continued supporting ecological projects through the Microfund that was established in 2011. One microgrant was awarded to SVIT-Ukraine for local "Ecodeya" projects on "zero waste" principles. The Gaia WG meeting was held in Kosovo in May along side the SAVA WG meeting. During the year GAIA worked with the IS and No More War on YiA and EYF grants. In October 2013, GAIA participated in a face to face meeting during NSPM in Antwerp to discuss the Create a Climate for Peace Campaign. Another important part of GAIA's work included preparing and hosting SCI delegates to the UN Climate Conference (COP19) from 11-22 Nov in Warsaw as well as the Conference of Youth (COY) before COP19 from 7-10 Nov in Warsaw.

GAIA Steering Group 2013

Sebastien Duck
Helena Poucki
Bao Daon
Marta Sykut

Impressions from COP19 – by Katrin

So here am I in Warsaw for my first COP, standing in front of the huge national stadium of Poland looking at the big green sign "COP 19" and feeling awesome. This was the beginning of my first and hopefully not my last COP.

COP 19 was held in Warsaw from 11th to 23rd November. SCI had five representatives with official UN badges who were allowed to attend the Conference. And although many people had big expectations about this event and its outcomes, I was more or less a realist and did not expect much from it. Just looking at the fact that the major sponsor of COP was Fly Emirates and considering that aviation is responsible for around 3,5% of anthropogenic climate change which is also expected to grow to 5% or 15% by the year 2050 (IPCC), for me it was clear that I should not expect too much from it. However, I was excited. For many people this is the place to express their positions on various topics or to somehow contribute to the world climate talks and the policy-making process with their expertise and knowledge and thus it is exciting.

Running from one side event to another I managed to attend some talks about Climate Change Actions in Developing Countries, Climate – Smart Agriculture, as well as many others. After some of the side events, there were of course productive discussions and sometimes refreshments were provided and we could continue the discussions and elaborate more on the topics. Knowing that I could only stay for 4 days at COP, I did my best to take it all in and consequently it was intense, but we also managed to have some fun at the convergence space which was provided for all of us by the local SCI volunteers.

By the end, I had collected a ton of materials, many ideas and lots of new information to digest as well as great memories, so the way home, on a bus for two days, was not at all unpleasant and I felt like I was still at COP. At least I did not take a plane and my conscience and the air around me were clean.

9. INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION IN 2013

International Coordination of SCI is organised through several bodies and meetings. In 2013 the most important international coordination body, the **International Committee Meeting (ICM)**, took place in Kalavrita , Greece in December. The **International Executive Committee (IEC)** met two times in 2013 to discuss policy matters and strategy as well as the work of the **International Secretariat (IS)**, which focused on administration, exchange support, communication and PR, campaigns and project management, finances and insurance.

I. INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT

STAFF

The International Secretariat had three staff persons in 2013. **Sara Turra** continued to work as the International Coordinator. **Ossi Lemstrom** continued in the position of Finance and Administration Officer, while **Ingrid ter Maat** remained active as Programme Officer.

LONG TERM VOLUNTEERS

At the beginning of the year **Karolina Rymer** from Poland, remained in the International Secretariat as an EVS volunteer for the project 'Volunteers4Visibility'. After completing her EVS (April 2013) she stayed on as an LTV until August.

Ida Gravina from Italy joined the IS as an Erasmus Trainee for three months and dealt mainly with the Peace Index, the Knowledge Management Seminar and the North South survey.

Masha (Mariia) Ginzburg from Ukraine eventually joined the International Secretariat on 18th of March as the much needed Tech LTV.

In September our new Erasmus Trainee **Beatrice Naldi** from Italy joined the team. Beatrice supported the Programme Officer with the organization of the North South Platform Meeting in Belgium in October and she was the contact and support person for the new SCI campaign 'Create a Climate for Peace'.

The new British/Turkish EVS volunteer **Ela Suleymangil**, also joined the team at the International Secretariat in September, taking over from Karolina. Ela will stay until September 2014. Her main focus areas are: 'EUR-rights: volunteers joining the debate', Social Media, No Hate Speech campaign with NMW Team and she is also the support person for YUWG.

FOCUS AREAS IN 2013

The International Secretariat focused mainly on internal and external communication (through the implementation of the SCI Communication Plan), project and grant management, working group support, the organisation of international meetings, external representation. In 2013 the International Secretariat started to get prepared for the launch of the Create a Climate for Peace campaign (2014) as well: a multi-annual campaign initiated by the No More War and GAIA working groups. Overall, the work of the International Secretariat was aligned with the SCI Strategic Plan.

II. INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

In 2013 two meetings took place of the International Executive Committee (IEC). The first IEC meeting took place in January in Antwerp while the second meeting was in July in Helsinki.

The main communication channel of the IEC to/with the movement remained the iec-info mailing list, where the IECM minutes were published. The Facebook page of the IEC is still active although not regularly used and never for official communications. Individual members of the IEC had direct contact with branches according to their areas of responsibility and participated in various international meetings.

FOCUS AREAS

The IEC dealt with several issues in 2013, such as exchanges, partnerships, international meetings, the Strategic Plan, communication, external representation, staff management and finances. The **Financial Advice and Consultancy Team** (FACT) met in Antwerp, in June.

IEC MEMBERS IN 2013

Paolo Pagano	International President
Kata Somlai	Appointed Vice President
Katja Löfgren	Appointed International Treasurer
Matteo Testino	Member
Živa Černec	Member
Mihaela Dobroiu	Member

III. INTERNATIONAL ARCHIVES (www.service-civil-international.org)

2013 was the second year for Heinz Gabathuler in his position as coordinator of SCI's International Archives. He mainly continued with all the main tasks he had started in 2012, such as filing of documents. The huge pile of unfiled documents from European and International Coordination he inherited from Philipp Rodriguez, the former Coordinator, melted away at last. The next step is to transport the files present at the International Secretariat to Switzerland. Another important task completed in 2013 was the [new website](#)

for the SCI Archives. Philipp Rodriguez built a website in line with SCI International Style Rules.

Research

An interesting part of Heinz work consisted of answering requests and giving access to files for people who were looking for specific information from SCI's rich past. For instance the support provided to a German historian who was preparing an exhibition about a workcamp back in 1960. An interesting and unexpected request came from a well-known Swiss documentary filmmaker who turned out to be an SCI veteran as well: In the early 1960s he had participated in a project in Algeria, shortly after independence, with former refugees that had been repatriated from Morocco – an outstanding example of SCI work in a „post-conflict area“. He now has a film project in mind, and Heinz gave him access to the Archives to go through photos and text documents from that period. Last but not least, a British historian has published a book on humanitarian relief during the Spanish Civil War which is covering SCI's activities and is partly based on research undertaken in SCI International Archives.

Apart from this Heinz worked on his own research. Whereas most of his working time as a volunteer in the Archives had been spent on sorting out and filing documents, he took the opportunity to do some minor research work, resulting in two spotlights on aspects of SCI history which were published in the Peace Connection (the internal e-zine of SCI).

IV. STRATEGIC PLANNING

STRATEGIC GOALS 2011 – 2014

Through educational practices at the local level, SCI wants to contribute to a **non violent approach to global issues**, by developing a more peaceful dialogue within society and raising awareness about social injustice and sustainable lifestyles. SCI wants to achieve this by organising peace education workshops, trainings, seminars and study sessions.

SCI also wants to empower people to take an active stand for a culture of peace in the world by **facilitating acts of solidarity at global and local levels**. Through the coordination and organisation of international voluntary projects this goal can be reached, as these projects are concrete acts of solidarity with people and communities that suffer social injustice, while at the same time these projects are a means to raise awareness about the current situation in the world.

Finally, SCI wants to **increase its capacity** in order to get better at what we do and how we do it. SCI wants to permanently work on improving certain key areas, such as volunteer and staff management, financial management, communication to be able to implement the strategic plan and establish a culture of peace for all.

V. INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS

NORTH SOUTH PLATFORM MEETING

The North South Platform Meeting (NSPM) is an annual meeting that brings together participants active in the North South Working Groups of SCI (Africa, Asia, Abya Yala, and Midi). This provides a platform for the North South working groups to hold their annual meetings. In 2013 the meeting took place in the second week of October in Antwerp, Belgium.

The meeting gathered staff and activists from all over the world. During 5 days the participants evaluated workcamps and long term volunteer projects in the global South, as well as the European incoming programme, existing partnerships and possible new contact organisations. Apart from this, there were also more thematic sessions. The participants were all dealing with the main theme of Global Citizenship, although they focused on different aspects of it.

One group - mainly composed of participants from volunteer and youth organisations in the Midi-area - focused on discussing, evaluating and planning activities in the field of 'volunteering in (post)conflict areas'. In this group there was special attention to Syria and the possibilities of SCI cooperating with organisations in Jordan that work with Syrian refugees. The second group was composed of people from different continents: sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, Europe and Asia. Many of the participants in this group represented organisations who are partners in the upcoming 'Create a Climate for Peace' campaign, and more specifically, in the project that forms part of this campaign called: 'Young Citizens Building Global Communities'. They worked on the concept of Climate Justice and Peace and on planning the activities of the campaign at local, regional and international levels.

The results of the meeting were very positive. Due to the very mixed group of participants and to the high level of preparedness and motivation of participants, the discussions were lively and very productive. Besides, the meeting did not only strengthen North South cooperation but also provided the opportunity for Southern partners to meet each other which have stimulated south-south cooperation as well.

EXCHANGE EVALUATION MEETING

The Exchange Evaluation Meeting (EEM) is a meeting that aims to evaluate the international voluntary projects that have taken place throughout the year and to discuss ways to improve the quality of future voluntary projects. The meeting also aims at sharing the interesting and creative stories of international youth and volunteer work. In 2013 the meeting took place in the third week of October in Predeal, Romania, hosted by SCI Romania.

Various decisions were made during this meeting, and recommendations formulated to improve exchanges in SCI and other things closely related to exchanges, such the organisation of workcamps, trainings for campleaders, communication and more. For

example a decision was that all new placement officers **must attend** the Placement Officer Training (**POT**) or **at least an online training** with the OPS Team. Also a document on workcamp standards was adopted by the EEM. Next year the EEM will take place in Turkey.

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING

The International Committee Meeting (ICM) is the annual meeting of SCI. It takes place once a year and is attended by delegates from SCI branches and recognised groups. Branches and groups can also send observers to the meeting. In 2013, the 73rd ICM was hosted by SCI Hellas in Kalavrita, Greece.

Various resolutions and recommendations were voted for during this important meeting. For example the ICM approved the resolution for a reform of North-South Exchange Statistics, and the Resolution on the creation of an international Exchange and Workcamps support team.

Apart from this, the ICM accepted IVP Australia as a new SCI branch, whereas SCI Northern Ireland was withdrawn as an SCI branch. All the working groups that were active in 2013 were recognised again for 2014, and Abya Yala working group regained their status as a formal working group. Gotas de Agua Perú was accepted as an SCI partner organisation after a successful evaluation period, whereas Ajude Mozambique was removed as SCI partner organization because of negative evaluation by Africa Working Group and the NSPM. Matteo Testino was elected as vice-president, and **Attanayake Karunaratne** was elected a member, of IEC.

Next ICM (2014) will take place in Serbia, to be hosted by VCV Serbia.



Delegates at the ICM, Kalavrita, Greece (2013)

ASIAN PLATFORM MEETING

Every year activists from the Asia-Pacific region gather for the Asia Pacific Peace Education Seminar and twice a year for the Asian Platform Meeting (APPES/APM). This year the joint seminar and meeting took place in Sri Lanka, at the Blue Rose Trainings Centre in Kandy from 13th to 15th of September.



The Asian Platform Meeting, Kandy, Sri Lanka (2013)

BRANCH COORDINATORS MEETING

The second Branch Coordinator Meeting (BCM 2013) took place in Fot, Hungary on 4-6th July 2013. During the meeting 15 branches had the possibility to get to know each other better and discuss important topics for everyday SCI life such as financial administration, exchanges and OPS, Communication Plan 2013-2015, establishing a Pool of Trainers, proposing changes to the Branch Contribution System of SCI (VEF), the Create a Climate for Peace campaign, the Plan of Action and Strategic Plan, partnerships and much-much more.



Branch Coordinators Meeting, Fot, Hungary (2013)

VII. COMMUNICATION AND EXTERNAL REPRESENTATION

YOU TOO CAN VOLUNTEER- LIVE TALKSHOW



This project aimed promoting the OPS and launching the new placement season in 2013. This started in January-February through an online campaign using social media, a website and e-zines. SCI reached out to and informed young people about concrete international volunteering opportunities and their value for the establishment of intercultural understanding and tolerance, as well as for social exclusion in diverse societies. This was done using video-material, images, volunteer stories and articles to catch people's attention and trigger them into finding out more by attending our live-event on volunteering.

The central event took place on 24th March 2013 between 1 and 3 pm Central European Time. It was an interactive, live talkshow. For this the preteam worked closely with volunteer ICT-experts to set up the technical requirements. The live talkshow could be viewed by anyone who visited www.sciint.org/you-too. It was interactive in the sense that people with a Facebook or Twitter account were able to ask questions directly, while people who did not have these accounts were able to use a live chat conversation. Questions from viewers were collected by volunteers who worked 'behind the scenes' and brought into the 'studio' by one of the preteam members, who handed them to the talkshow host on small pieces of paper.

Interviews took place with representatives from SCI organisations in Kenya, Kosovo, Finland, France, Hungary, Switzerland, Germany and Belgium.

The project also produced some on-line material:

- the talkshow recordings themselves (available on youtube and vimeo)
- a 'the making of' video that shows how the talkshow was put together as well as a final evaluation

PUBLICATIONS:

A new leaflet was developed and designed by the IS, according to the SCI Style Guide. The International Secretariat also created personalised cards in SCI Style. There is one 'general' version that can be used by working groups or activists if they want. The Pathfinder Mission of the Syria group already took them to Jordan.

SOCIAL MEDIA:

In 2013 the social media strategy and plan of action was finalised. It includes a recommended plan of action for those branches who want to make more effective use of social media. For the IS the main aim of having an action plan for social media is to build a bigger on-line audience and get more people interested and actively supporting SCI.

E-ZINE AND E-NEWS:

The e-newsletters were sent as usual by the IS. There is now an external e-zine called '[Voices of Volunteers](#)' that highlights stories and experiences from short and long term volunteers active in SCI. There is also an internal e-zine called the 'Peace Connection' that is informing branches, partners, working groups and activists about what is happening in SCI at the international level.

INTERNAL COMMUNICATION:

Internal communication in 2013 started with the long awaited **Knowledge Management Seminar**. One of the outcomes here was to start building a new SCI Members Area: it should be a tool where every activist has its own access and where different branches, partners, working groups, and the IEC will have their own user-groups and will be able to upload, download and edit their own files and information pages. The member's area can be found at www.ma.sciint.org.

EXTERNAL REPRESENTATION

The External Representation (EXREP) is a crucial sector for SCI, therefore a call for enlarging the existing EXREP-Team was launched beginning of 2013 by the IEC. Many activists applied for joining this group and finally a team of 11 people was created. Members of the team are all engaged activists who should help evaluate, discuss and present SCI in international meetings.

In 2013, the EXREP Team was composed of Sara Turra, International Coordinator; Matteo Testino, Mihaela Dobroiu and Paolo Pagano from IEC; Klaudia Bencze, Ingrid Danckaerts, Wilbert Helsloot (all from the team since 2012); Ivana Davidovska, Mauro Carta, Stefan Manevski and Steffi Koch. The team did not succeed in developing a strategy on external representation activities till the end of the year, and therefore in 2013 it followed basically the priorities set in the Plan of Action approved at ICM 2012. Other volunteers and IEC members were occasionally helping the work of the team with participation in events or by giving opinions on specific topics. The team had no physical meeting in 2013, but two Skype meetings.

UNOY: Given UNOY's great experience in advocacy work, SCI decided to try to develop joint actions in order to develop its own advocacy profile. For this reason, apart from spreading the call to join UNOY activities within SCI movement, we are partner in two projects which will take place in 2014 ("*Storytelling in Youth Advocacy*", from Anna Lindh Foundation, and "*Mobilising Youth -Social Entrepreneurship for Peace Building*", from EACEA).

UNESCO: Our relation in 2013 was rather distant and of administrative nature. SCI is still in a consultative status with UNESCO that implies membership fees and access to UNESCO activities. In order to strengthen relations, in September 2013, Kata Somlai, from the IEC, took part in the UNESCO Forum for NGO's and also at a meeting regarding the UNESCO General Conference, both in Paris.

CCIVS: In 2013 SCI tried to strengthen the relations with CCIVS, establishing a sound communication channel between the IS, the Secretariat of CCIVS and the member of the EXREP-Team in charge of CCIVS. During the year SCI and CCIVS cooperated on various actions.

European Youth Forum-YFJ: SCI was present in almost all the principle meetings of the Forum and was quite active on the topic of the future of the Youth in Action Programme.

Council of Europe: SCI continues to have participatory status with the Council of Europe.

ASEF: Since 2011 SCI is developing a closer relation with the Asia Europe Foundation with the aim of finding a way of cooperating in the frame of a common project that could potentially involve Asian branches of SCI. In August 2013 we were informed that the proposal submitted in 2012 was put on hold by the Board of Governors of ASEF. At the moment we are not working on other specific proposals.

Alliance: The cooperation with Alliance falls under partnership issues and the topic has been explored in 2013 by the Partnership Revision Team (see PRT Report ICM/13/03/15). For external representation purposes, as well as to get more information about Alliance activities, Sara from IS participated to the final dissemination event of their project “Learning Bridges” (3.2, Youth in Action) that took place in Brussels, on the 4th of September 2013.

EACEA - Structured Dialogue Meeting: The Structured Dialogue Meeting is an event that takes place normally twice a year in Brussels, organized by the EC. It involves a group of stakeholders for Europe for Citizens programme, mainly beneficiaries of the EACEA Europe for Citizens Admin Grant. A lot of different organizations and networks are present. Last meeting took place on the 31st of May, and was mainly focusing on the changes in the new Europe for Citizens programme. Sara participated in the meeting.

Global Meeting: CCIVS organizes the **Global Leaders forum**, a platform where all the International Voluntary Service networks are present. The GL is followed by Paolo and Sara. Sara participated to the 6th Global Meeting (24th February, Paris) and Paolo, Steffi and Sara took part in the 7th Global Meeting hosted at SCI office in Antwerp on November, 4th.

10. ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2013

Income	12 FINAL	13 BDG	13 REAL	Of BDG
01. Branch Contributions	46.273	42.000	46.383	110%
02. Vol Exch Fee (excl Insur Prens)	15.507	11.250	22.454	200%
03. Insurance Premiums Received	75.079	82.000	63.704	78%
04. Fees for Office Work Done	12.540	6.600	6.270	95%
05. Participation Fees	5.896	6.600	10.527	159%
06. Grants	121.094	131.000	159.183	122%
07. Donations / Fundraising	10.572	10.200	8.009	79%
08. Interest and Dividend	4.224	3.000	3.083	103%
09. Other Income	17.998	1040	5.484	527%
10. Extraordinary Income	432	0	562	
Total Income	309.615	293.690	325.659	122%
Expenditure	12 FINAL	13 BDG	13 REAL	Of BDG
11. Staff Costs	138.838	157.390	159.049	101%
13. Office Costs	25.509	26.050	26.545	102%
15. Taxes	1.888	1.900	1.696	89%
16. Travel & Meeting Costs	37.409	35.280	32.772	93%
17. Membership Fees	2.919	2.970	3.001	101%
18. Financial Costs	2.278	500	-497	-99%
19. Miscellaneous	1.307	0	3.758	
20. Project Costs	20.838	14100	48.273	342%
21. Premiums and Claims Paid	68.069	55.500	49.165	89%
22. Extraordinary Expenses	11.562	0	4.769	
23. Extraction from Provisions			-7589	
25. Addition to Provisions	-956	0	4800	
Total Expenditure	309.660	293.690	325.743	111%
RESULT	-45	0	-84	
Expeses Per Cost Centre	12 FINAL	13 BDG	13 REAL	Of BDG
ICM	17.446	14.670	14.279	97%
IEC & FACT	8.467	10.810	6.800	63%
GENERAL COORDINATION	189.265	186.790	184.386	99%
INSURANCE	67.606	56.800	65.154	115%
SUPPORT to Int. Coordination	4.082	8.520	5.198	61%
ADP	1.951	2.000	1.652	83%
Projects	20.842	14.100	48.273	342%
Total	309.660	293.690	325.743	111%

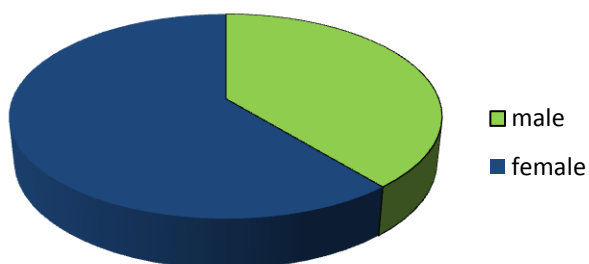
11. STATISTICS 2013

Note: This data refers only to SCI branches and groups, and does not include numbers related to our partners

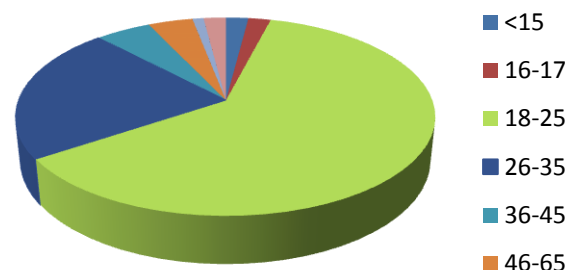
	Current Data
Outgoing to workcamps	2814
Other outgoing	230
Incoming to workcamps	2723
Other incoming	230
Workcamps	340

Other interesting data related to workcamps: (%vols)

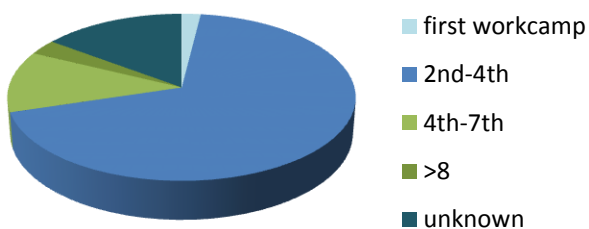
Gender



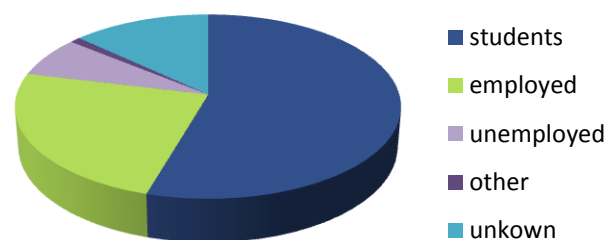
Age



Workcamp Experience



Occupation



12. SCI BRANCHES AND GROUPS IN 2013

EUROPE

PVN Albania	IVS Great Britain	OWA Poland
SCI Austria	SCI Hellas	SCI Romania
New Group SCI Belarus	UTILAPU – SCI Hungary	VCV - Serbia
SCI Belgium	VSI Ireland	SCI Catalunya
VIA Belgium	SCI Italy	IAL Sweden
CVS Bulgaria	AVI Moldova	SCI Switzerland
Volunteers Centre Zagreb	VIA Netherlands	CID Macedonia
KVT Finland	ID Norway	GAIA Kosovo
SCI France	SV Zavod Voluntariat – Slovenia	
SCI France Région Nord	SVIT Ukraine	
SCI Germany	SCI Madrid	

SUB- SAHARA AFRICA

SVI Mauritius
VWAN Nigeria

ASIA-PACIFIC REGION

IVP Australia
SCI Bangladesh
SCI India
SCI Japan
SCI Malaysia
SCI Nepal
SCI Pakistan
SCI South Korea
SCI Sri Lanka
SCI Hong Kong

NORTH & SOUTH AMERICA

SVI Brasil
CEMIAC - Mexico
SCI-IVS USA

MIDDLE EAST AND MEDITERRANEAN REGION

Bridges of Peace Jordan

13. SCI PARTNER AND CONTACT ORGANISATIONS IN 2013

SUB-SAHARA AFRICA

Union de la Jeunesse Fraternelle de
Diébougou - Burkina Faso
Botswana Workcamp Association
DUNIA Arts and Culture – Ivory Coast
Conseil National de la Jeunesse du Gabon
Voluntary Workcamp Association of Ghana
Kenya Voluntary Development Association
Kiburanga Kenya
Lesotho Workcamps Association
AYISE Malawi

Les Ententes - Senegal
La Fenagie –pêche - Senegal
PDEF -Senegal
Voluntary Workcamps Association of Sierra Leone
ASTOVOT - Togo
UVIKIUTA –Tanzania
Uganda Pioneers Association
Zimbabwe Workcamp Association
Youth Association of Zambia

EUROPE

HUJ Armenia
AYAFE Azerbaijan
DUHA Association - Czech Republic
INEX-SDA - Czech Republic
MS (Mellemfolkeligt Samvirke) – Danmark
EST-YES Estonia
YGE (Young Georgians for Europe) - Georgia
VJF (Vereinigung Junger Freiwilliger) – Germany
WF Iceland
SEEDS SEE beyond borders- Iceland
BSF - Balkan Sunflowers – Kosovo
Association Amitié Portugal-Luxembourg
SIW (Internationale Vrijwilligersprojekten) – Netherlands
IPJ (Instituto Português da Juventude) – Portugal
Eco Centre Zapovedniks – Russia

SFERA – Russia
Siberian Creative Group – Russia
World4U – Russia
Center for Support of Democratic Youth Initiatives
(Youth Memorial) – Russia
Passage Zebra RU – PZ – Russia
Sodrujestvo, Cheboxary –Russia
AYA – Russia
Russian-German Exchange – Russia
Kola Nature - Russia
Youth Cultural Center- Bitola – Macedonia
Volunteer Center of ADP-Zid – Republic of Montenegro
Voluntary Service Serbia (VSS)
De Amicitia – Spain
INEX Slovakia
Alternative V – Ukraine

ASIA – PACIFIC REGION

IIWC of IPPA Indonesia – Indonesia
NICE (Neverending International Camp Exchange) – Japan
League of Volunteers Kyrgyzstan
APDC Kyrgyzstan

MCE Mongolian Workcamps Exchange
Greenway International Workcamps – Thailand
DaLaa Thailand
Tajikistan Freedom Support Initiatives

Youth of 21 Century – Tajikistan
Vision Youth Action -Taiwan
Volunteers For Peace Vietnam

NORTH AND SOUTH AMERICA

Nocona Canada
VFP (Volunteers for Peace) – USA
Asociación C.H.I.C.O.S. – Argentina
Fundación Darien – Colombia
Fundación Golondrinas – Ecuador
Fundacion Chiriboga – Ecuador
VIVE México
Nataté Mexico

CEPA - Centro de Educación Promocional
Agrária – Nicaragua
APAN - Asociación Pro Ayuda a la Niñez
Nicaragüense
Gotas de Agua – Peru
BVBP – Peru
DESCO - Centro de Estudios y Promoción del
Desarrollo – Peru

MIDDLE EAST AND MEDITERRANEAN REGION

TOUIZA - Algeria
Baladna – Israel
JEC - Morocco
Beyti - Morocco
Alkhair - Morocco
ACIM (Amis des Chantiers Internationaux de
Meknès) - Morocco
CSM (Chantiers Sociaux Marocains)
Zajel Youth Exchange Program - Palestine
Popular Struggle Coordination Committee -
Palestine
Project Hope Palestine
Tent of Nations Palestine
JAFRA – Syria
ATAV (Association Tunisienne de l'Action
Volontaire) – Tunisia
UTAIM (Union Tunisienne d'Aide aux
Insuffisants Mentaux) – Tunisia
GENCTUR Turkey
GSM (Gençlik Servisleri Merkezi)
Gudran Egypt

14. INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION IN 2013

INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Paolo Pagano	International President
Kata Somlai	Vice President
Katja Löfgren	International Treasurer
Matteo Testino	Member
Živa Černec	Member
Mihaela Dobroiu	Member

INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT

Sara Turra	International Coordinator
Ingrid ter Maat	Programme Officer
Ossi Lemström	Finance and Administration Officer
Mariia (Masha) Ginzburg	Tech LTV from March 2013
Ida Gravina	Erasmus Trainee 3 months
Karolina Rymer	EVS Volunteer until April 2013
	LTV until August 2013
Ela Suleymangil	EVS Volunteer from September 2013
Beatrice Naldi	Erasmus Trainee from September 2013